

1 Anthony G. Brazil (State Bar No. 84297)
2 Kanika D. Corley (State Bar No. 223607)
3 **MORRIS POLICH & PURDY LLP**
4 1055 West Seventh Street, Suite 2400
5 Los Angeles, CA 90017
6 Telephone: (213) 891-9100
7 Facsimile: (213) 488-1178

8 Attorneys for Defendant
9 MCKESSON CORPORATION

10 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
11 **EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

12 ALI MUHILDDINE and BASSEMA
13 MUHILDDINE,

14 Plaintiffs,

15 vs.

16 MERCK & COMPANY, INC., a
17 Corporation; MCKESSON
18 CORPORATION; a Corporation;
19 AMERISOURCEBERGEN
20 CORPORATION, a Corporation; PFIZER
21 INC.; PHARMACIA CORPORATION;
22 G. D. SEARLE LLC, (FKA G.D.
23 SEARLE & CO.); DOES 1 to 100;
24 PHARMACEUTICAL DEFENDANT
25 DOES 101 to 200; DISTRIBUTOR
26 DEFENDANT DOES 201 to 300,
27 inclusive,

28 Defendants.

Case No. 2:06-CV-02814-GEB-GGH

**ANSWER AND AFFIRMATIVE
DEFENSES OF DEFENDANT
MCKESSON CORPORATION TO
PLAINTIFFS' COMPLAINT;
DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

23 Defendant MCKESSON CORPORATION ("Defendant") files the following
24 Answer to the unverified Complaint ("Complaint") filed in the matter of ALI
25 MUHILDDINE, et al. v. MERCK & COMPANY, INC., et al. (The term "Plaintiffs" as
26 used herein shall refer to ALI MUHILDDINE and BASSEMA MUHILDDINE.)
27 Defendant responds to Plaintiffs' Complaint as follows:

28 ///

INTRODUCTION

McKesson is a wholesale distributor of pharmaceuticals, over-the-counter and health and beauty products to chain, independent pharmacy customers and hospitals. As a wholesale distributor, McKesson distributes products manufactured by others. As to VIOXX®/CELEBREX/BEXTRA, McKesson does not manufacture, produce, process, test, encapsulate, label, package or repackage these products, nor does it make any representations or warranties as to the products' safety or efficacy. McKesson lacks information or knowledge sufficient to admit or deny the remaining allegations contained in the introduction paragraph of the Complaint and therefore denies such allegations.

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

1. McKesson is a wholesale distributor of pharmaceuticals, over-the-counter and health and beauty products to chain, independent pharmacy customers and hospitals. As a wholesale distributor, McKesson distributes products manufactured by others. As to VIOXX®/CELEBREX/BEXTRA, McKesson does not manufacture, produce, process, test, encapsulate, label, package or repackage these products, nor does it make any representations or warranties as to the products' safety or efficacy. McKesson lacks information or knowledge sufficient to admit or deny the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 1 of the Complaint, and its subparts and subparagraphs, and therefore denies such allegations.

2. McKesson is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations of Paragraph 2 of the Complaint, and therefore denies such allegations.

3. McKesson is a wholesale distributor of pharmaceuticals, over-the-counter and health and beauty products to chain, independent pharmacy customers and hospitals. As a wholesale distributor, McKesson distributes products manufactured by others. As to VIOXX®/CELEBREX/BEXTRA, McKesson does not manufacture, produce, process, test, encapsulate, label, package or repackage these products, nor does it make any representations or warranties as to the products' safety or efficacy. McKesson lacks

1 information or knowledge sufficient to admit or deny the remaining allegations contained
2 in Paragraph 3 of the Complaint and therefore denies such allegations.

3 4. McKesson is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as
4 to the truth or falsity of the allegations of Paragraph 4 of the Complaint and its subparts
5 and subparagraphs, and therefore denies such allegations.

6 5. McKesson is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as
7 to the truth or falsity of the allegations of Paragraph 5 of the Complaint, and therefore
8 denies such allegations.

9 6. McKesson is a wholesale distributor of pharmaceuticals, over-the-counter
10 and health and beauty products to chain, independent pharmacy customers and hospitals.
11 As a wholesale distributor, McKesson distributes products manufactured by others. As to
12 VIOXX®/CELEBREX/BEXTRA, McKesson does not manufacture, produce, process,
13 test, encapsulate, label, package or repackage these products, nor does it make any
14 representations or warranties as to the products' safety or efficacy. McKesson lacks
15 information or knowledge sufficient to admit or deny the remaining allegations contained
16 in Paragraph 6 of the Complaint and its subparts and subparagraphs and therefore denies
17 such allegations.

18 7. McKesson is a wholesale distributor of pharmaceuticals, over-the-counter
19 and health and beauty products to chain, independent pharmacy customers and hospitals.
20 As a wholesale distributor, McKesson distributes products manufactured by others. As to
21 VIOXX®/CELEBREX/BEXTRA, McKesson does not manufacture, produce, process,
22 test, encapsulate, label, package or repackage these products, nor does it make any
23 representations or warranties as to the products' safety or efficacy. McKesson lacks
24 information or knowledge sufficient to admit or deny the remaining allegations contained
25 in Paragraph 7 of the Complaint and its subparts and subparagraphs, and therefore denies
26 such allegations.

27 ///

28 ///

AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

8. The Complaint and all causes of action asserted against Defendant fail to state facts sufficient to constitute a cause of action.

SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

9. Federal law preempts Plaintiffs' claims. Plaintiffs have asserted claims for relief which, if granted, would constitute an impermissible burden by this Court on Federal laws, regulations, and policies relating to the development and marketing of products, in violation of the Supremacy Clause, Article VI of the Constitution of the United States.

THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

10. The causes of action alleged in the Complaint are barred by the applicable statutes of limitations and/or statutes of repose, including but not limited to California *Code of Civil Procedure* §§ 335.1 and 338 and former § 340(3), California *Business and Professions Code* § 17208, and *California Civil Code* § 1783.

FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

11. During the time periods alleged in the Complaint, Plaintiffs failed to exercise ordinary care on Plaintiffs' own behalf for Plaintiffs' safety. Plaintiffs' recklessness, carelessness and/or negligence caused any injury and damage that Plaintiff may have sustained. Plaintiffs' right to recover should be diminished by Plaintiffs' proportional share of fault.

FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

12. Plaintiffs failed to mitigate any damage that Plaintiffs may have sustained. Plaintiffs failed to exercise reasonable care to avoid the consequences of harm, if any. Among other things, Plaintiffs failed to use reasonable diligence in caring for any injury, use reasonable means to prevent aggravation of any injury, and/or take reasonable precautions to reduce any injury and damage.

///

SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

13. During the time periods alleged in the Complaint, Plaintiffs had full knowledge of the risks and possible adverse effects pertaining to the use of the products. Defendant alleges that part or all of the injuries, damages, or losses, if any, that Plaintiffs claim to have sustained arose from or were caused by such risks. Plaintiffs were aware of, accepted, and assumed the risks and possible adverse effects. Plaintiffs' recovery, if any, should be diminished, reduced, offset, or barred by Plaintiffs' assumption of the risks and informed consent.

SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

14. Defendant denies that Plaintiffs suffered injuries or incurred any damages, or that any defendant is liable. If Plaintiffs did suffer any injuries or incur any damages, any injuries or damages were caused, in whole or in part, by the acts or omissions of persons or entities other than Defendant or superseding or intervening causes over which Defendant had no control. If there is any negligence or liability by any defendant, it is the sole and exclusive negligence and liability of others and not this answering Defendant.

EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

15. The intervening or superseding cause of any injury allegedly sustained by the Plaintiffs may be conduct which is illicit, criminal, or otherwise improper, and for which conduct Defendant cannot be held responsible.

NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

16. Plaintiffs' alleged damages, injuries, or losses, if any, were not proximately caused by any alleged act, omission, or breach of duty by Defendant but were caused in whole or in part by the acts or omissions of Plaintiffs and/or others so that the principles of contributory negligence, comparative fault and/or assumption of the risk apply.

TENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

17. Plaintiffs' claims are barred in whole or in part because they have been improperly joined in this action.

///

ELEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

18. If any of the other parties are negligent, legally responsible, or otherwise at fault for the damages alleged in the Master Complaint, and if there is a finding of any liability in favor of Plaintiffs or settlement or judgment against Defendant, Defendant requests that the Court or Jury make an apportionment of fault among all parties as permitted by *Li v. Yellow Cab Co.* and *American Motorcycle Association v. Superior Court*. Defendant further requests a judgment and declaration of partial indemnification and contribution against all other parties or persons in accordance with the apportionment of fault.

TWELFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

19. Plaintiffs' claims are barred in whole or in part because they have been filed in an improper venue.

THIRTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

20. Plaintiffs' alleged injuries were the direct and proximate result of an idiosyncratic reaction which was not reasonably foreseeable, or was not the result of any conduct or negligence on the part of Defendant; and/or was not the result of any defect in any product distributed or sold by Defendant.

FOURTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

21. The hazards of foreseeable uses and misuses of the product are open and obvious.

FIFTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

22. After the products left the possession and control of Defendant, if in fact any products were ever in the possession or control of Defendant, the products were redesigned, modified, altered, or subjected to treatment that substantially changed their character without Defendant's knowledge. Any alleged defect resulted, if at all, from the redesign, modification, alteration, treatment or other change of the products after Defendant relinquished possession of and control over any of the products.

///

SIXTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

23. The design, manufacture, and marketing of the products were in conformity with the "state of the art" existing at the time of such design, manufacture, and marketing.

SEVENTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

24. The learned intermediary doctrine bars Plaintiffs' recovery of any damages. Any duty to warn Plaintiffs of the risks and hazards associated with the products was discharged by providing adequate warning to physicians.

EIGHTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

25. To the extent that Plaintiffs allege a failure to warn by Defendant, Defendant alleges that the manufacturers, physician, and other health care providers associated with the products knew, or should have been aware, of any risk and hazard that Plaintiffs and/or Plaintiffs' decedent alleges rendered the products defective and that allegedly caused Plaintiffs' and/or Plaintiffs' decedent's injuries and damages, if any. To the extent that such manufacturers, physician, and other health care providers failed to advise, inform, or warn Plaintiffs of such risks and hazards, such failure is imputed to Plaintiffs under agency principles and Plaintiffs and/or Plaintiffs' decedent knowingly and voluntarily assumed the risk of any injury as a result of the consumption of, administration of, or exposure to the product.

NINETEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

26. The Complaint is barred due to the lack of privity, or a "transaction," between Plaintiffs and Defendant.

TWENTIETH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

27. This Court lacks personal jurisdiction over this answering Defendant.

TWENTY-FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

28. Plaintiffs' claims are barred in whole or in part by the doctrines of accord and satisfaction, good faith, consent, res judicata, payment and release, waiver, collateral estoppel, judicial estoppel, equitable estoppel, unclean hands, laches, and/or statutory and regulatory compliance.

TWENTY-SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

29. The products were not used in the manner in which they were intended to be used. The products were used in a manner that was abnormal and not reasonably foreseeable by Defendant. Such misuse of the products proximately caused or contributed to Plaintiffs' alleged damages, injuries, and losses, if any.

TWENTY-THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

30. The imposition of punitive or exemplary damages against Defendant or that are in any way imputed against the interests of Defendant would violate the ruling in *State Farm Mut. Automobile Ins. Co. v. Campbell* (2003) 538 U.S. 408, and Defendant's constitutional rights under: the Due Process clauses in the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States; the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States; the Double Jeopardy clause in the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States; comparable provisions contained within the California Constitution; the common law and public policies of California; and applicable statutes and court rules, including but not limited to, imposition of punitive damages and determination of such an award:

- (a) by a jury when the jury is: (i) not given standards of sufficient clarity for determining the appropriateness, and the appropriate size, of a punitive damages award; (ii) not adequately and clearly instructed on the limits on punitive damages imposed by the principles of deterrence and punishment; (iii) not expressly prohibited from awarding punitive damages, or determining the amount of such an award, in whole or in part, on the basis of invidiously discriminatory characteristics, including the corporate status, wealth, or state of residence of Defendant; (iv) permitted to award punitive damages under a standard for determining liability for such damages which is vague and arbitrary and does not define with sufficient clarity the conduct or mental state which makes punitive damages permissible; and (v) not

1 subject to trial court and appellate judicial review for reasonableness, the
2 furtherance of legitimate purpose, and the basis of objective standards;

3 (b) where applicable law is impermissibly vague, imprecise, or inconsistent;

4 (c) subject to no predetermined limit, such as a maximum multiple of
5 compensatory damages or a maximum amount; and

6 (d) based upon anything other than Defendant's conduct in connection with the
7 sale of the products alleged in this litigation, or in any other way subjecting
8 Defendant to impermissible multiple punishment for the same alleged
9 wrong.

10 **TWENTY-FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

11 31. While continuing to deny any and all liability, Defendant states that if the
12 court determines that Plaintiffs are entitled to assert a claim for punitive damages, such
13 claim cannot be permitted to go forward until the trier of fact determines that punitive
14 damages should be considered, and, ultimately all issues regarding punitive damages
15 should be bifurcated at trial. Any award for punitive or exemplary damage absent
16 bifurcating trial as to issues of compensatory and exemplary damages would be in
17 violation of Defendant's rights to due process under the United States Constitution and
18 the correlative provisions of California law.

19 **TWENTY-FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

20 32. At all times, any products distributed by Defendant were distributed in
21 compliance with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, and rules
22 promulgated and enforced by the Food and Drug Administration. The products were
23 subject to and received pre-market approval by the Food and Drug Administration under
24 52 Stat. 1040, 21 U.S.C. § 301. Compliance with such laws, regulations, and rules
25 demonstrates that due care and reasonable prudence were exercised in the design,
26 manufacture, and promotion of the subject pharmaceutical product and that said product
27 was not defective in any way.

28 ///

TWENTY-SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

33. Any damages, injuries and/or losses alleged to have been suffered by Plaintiffs have been mitigated, in whole or in part, by reimbursement from collateral sources and therefore, Plaintiffs' claims against Defendant are barred and/or reduced by any applicable set off.

TWENTY-SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

34. At all times, Defendant's acts or omissions were privileged, justified, fair and undertaken in the good faith exercise of a valid business purpose.

TWENTY-EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

35. Plaintiffs cannot demonstrate the necessary elements to support the request for injunctive relief, including without limitation, a threat of imminent or immediate harm.

TWENTY-NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

36. Any alleged act or omission by Defendant concerning the manufacture, warning, labeling, advertising and sale of VIOXX®/CELEBREX/BEXTRA referred to in the Complaint, was at all times, the duty of an entity other than Defendant. Defendant acted in good faith concerning all services for which it had a duty to provide as referred to in the Complaint.

THIRTIETH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

37. Plaintiffs' claims for disgorgement or restitution are barred under the decision in *Kraus v. Trinity Management Services, Inc.* (2000) 23 Cal.4th 116 and related authority.

THIRTY-FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

38. Plaintiffs' alleged injuries or illnesses preexisted or were suffered after the alleged use of the products, and Plaintiffs' alleged injuries or illnesses were neither caused nor exacerbated by said alleged use.

///

///

THIRTY-SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

39. Plaintiffs' injuries were caused or contributed to by their failure to follow the directions and precautions provided by the product's manufacturer(s).

THIRTY-THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

40. Plaintiffs' breach of warranty claims are barred because Plaintiffs failed to give adequate and timely notice of his alleged claims against Defendant and/or because the alleged warranties were disclaimed.

THIRTY-FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

41. Defendant's alleged business practices with respect to the subject product were lawful, fair, truthful, not misleading or deceptive, not fraudulent, and were justified based on the state of medical and scientific knowledge available during the relevant time and were in compliance with the applicable laws, regulations, and rules within the meaning of either *Business and Professions Code* Section 17200, et seq. or *Business and Professions Code* Section 17500, et seq.

THIRTY- FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

42. Plaintiffs' claimed injuries and/or damages are so remote, speculative or contingent that Plaintiffs' claims must be barred on public policy grounds.

THIRTY-SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

43. The conduct alleged in the Complaint does not plead a "violation of law" sufficient to provide the necessary predicate for an "unlawful" business practices claim, or any other claim, under either *Business and Professions Code* Section 17200, et seq. or *Business and Professions Code* Section 17500 et seq.

THIRTY-SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

44. Plaintiffs' claims under *Business and Professions Code* Section 17200, et seq. or *Business and Professions Code* Section 17500 et seq. are barred in whole or in part under principles of substantive and procedural due process.

THIRTY-EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

45. Plaintiffs' claims under *Business and Professions Code* Section 17200, et

1 seq. or *Business and Professions Code* Section 17500, et seq. are barred in whole or in
2 part because Plaintiffs do not qualify as private attorneys general, and for that reason,
3 among others, lack standing to prosecute a claim for injunctive or monetary relief.

4 **THIRTY-NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

5 46. Plaintiffs' claims under *Business and Professions Code* Section 17200, et
6 seq. or *Business and Professions Code* Section 17500, et seq. are barred in whole or in
7 part because there is no basis for injunctive relief in this action and Plaintiffs have an
8 adequate remedy at law.

9 **FORTIETH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

10 47. Plaintiffs' claims under *Business and Professions Code* Section 17200, et
11 seq. or *Business and Professions Code* Section 17500, et seq. are barred in whole or in
12 part by the doctrine of primary jurisdiction. The subject of pharmaceutical product and
13 any advertising regarding such product are regulated by the Food and Drug
14 Administration and as such, answering Defendant requests that this Court, sitting in
15 equity, abstain from hearing claims under Sections 17200, et seq. and 17500, et seq.,
16 which are accordingly preempted by Federal law.

17 **FORTY-FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

18 48. The Plaintiffs are barred from recovery against Defendant because of the
19 sophisticated user doctrine.

20 **FORTY-SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

21 49. Plaintiffs' strict liability claims are barred under the principles set forth in
22 *Brown v. Superior Court* (1988) 44 Cal.3d 1088.

23 **FORTY-THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

24 50. Plaintiffs' claim, if any, for loss of consortium is barred because it is
25 derivative of the injured Plaintiffs'/decedent's claim, which fails pursuant to the
26 affirmative defenses set forth herein.

27 **FORTY-FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

28 51. Defendant is a provider of services, not products, and thus is not strictly

1 liable under California law.

2 **FORTY-FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

3 52. Plaintiffs' Complaint fails to allege ultimate facts sufficient to state a cause
4 of action predicated upon negligence, strict liability, breach of implied warranty, breach
5 of express warranty, failure to warn or deceit by concealment.

6 **FORTY-SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

7 53. Plaintiffs' claims of any non-economic damages are subject to *California*
8 *Civil Code* §1431.2, which is applicable to the Complaint and each cause of action
9 therein.

10 **FORTY-SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

11 54. The product at issue in this litigation is not defective or unreasonably
12 dangerous because it is a prescription pharmaceutical bearing adequate warnings, and is
13 subject to the comment j exception to strict liability as set forth in § 402A of the
14 Restatement (Second) of Torts (1965), and/or because it is a prescription pharmaceutical
15 that is unavoidably unsafe pursuant to comment k of § 402A of the Restatement (Second)
16 of Torts (1965).

17 **FORTY-EIGHT AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

18 55. Plaintiffs' claims are barred in whole or in part because the subject
19 pharmaceutical product "provides net benefits for a class of patients" within the meaning
20 of Comment f to Section 6 of the Restatement (Third) of Torts: Products Liability.

21 **FORTY-NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

22 56. Plaintiffs' claims are barred under Section 4, et seq., of the Restatement
23 (Third) of Torts: Products Liability.

24 **FIFTIETH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

25 57. Plaintiffs' claims, if any, related to negligence per se are barred, in whole or
26 in part, because there is no statute violated by this Defendant.

27 **FIFTY-FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

28 58. Plaintiffs' claims are barred in whole or in part by the deference given to the

1 primary jurisdiction of the Food and Drug Administration over the subject
2 pharmaceutical product under applicable federal laws, regulations, and rules. These
3 claims are thus preempted by Federal law.

4 **FIFTY-SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

5 59. Plaintiffs' claims are barred in whole or in part because there is no private
6 right of action concerning matters regulated by the Food and Drug Administration under
7 applicable federal laws, regulations, and rules.

8 **FIFTY-THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

9 60. Plaintiffs' claims are barred in whole or in part because Plaintiffs lack
10 standing to bring such claims.

11 **FIFTY-FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

12 61. Plaintiffs' claims are barred in whole or in part because they fail to meet the
13 requirements of *California Code of Civil Procedure* §§ 377.30, et seq., and 377.60, et
14 seq., governing a decedent's cause of action and wrongful death actions.

15 **FIFTY-FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

16 62. Plaintiffs' claims are barred to the extent they are made by, or on behalf of,
17 out of state Plaintiffs or Plaintiffs' decedent, or arose from events occurring out of state,
18 are barred in whole or in part under principles of forum non conveniens and due process.

19 **FIFTY-SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

20 63. Plaintiffs' claims are barred in whole or in part because the Complaint fails
21 to join necessary and indispensable parties.

22 **FIFTY-SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

23 64. Plaintiffs' Consumer Legal Remedies Act cause of action is barred because
24 it fails to meet the requirements of *California Civil Code* §§ 1750, et seq.

25 **FIFTY-EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

26 65. Defendant did not design, manufacture, formulate, distribute, market, sell,
27 research, develop, test or supply the VIOXX®/CELEBREX/BEXTRA that was alleged
28 to have been ingested by Plaintiffs and/or any of the ingredients contained therein.

FIFTY-NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

66. Plaintiffs failed to allege specific facts that Defendant distributed and/or supplied the subject product that Plaintiffs allegedly ingested. Accordingly, Plaintiffs failed to plead facts sufficient to show an actual connection between Defendant's alleged conduct and the Plaintiffs' purported injury and Defendant has, therefore, been fraudulently joined.

SIXTIETH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

67. Plaintiffs' vague allegations are legal conclusions directed at "defendants" in general and fail to support any claims specific to Defendant.

SIXTY-FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

68. Plaintiffs' claims are barred by the applicable prescriptive periods or statutes of limitations provided for such claims.

SIXTY-SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

69. Defendant denies that the products distributed by it caused or contributed to the alleged injuries of Plaintiffs and further denies that it is liable to Plaintiffs for the claims alleged or for any other claims whatsoever.

SIXTY-THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

70. Defendant did not make any material representation of fact regarding the products it distributes which was not true, or if such representation was made, which Defendant specifically denies, then McKesson did not make such representation with the intent to either deceive or to induce Plaintiffs to act in justifiable reliance.

SIXTY-FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

71. Plaintiffs did not justifiably rely, in any fashion whatsoever, upon any statement, representation, advice or conduct of McKesson, and did not act upon any statement, representation advice or conduct to their detriment.

SIXTY-FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

72. Defendant asserts that as of the relevant times alleged in the Complaint, it did not know and, in light of the then existing reasonable available scientific and

1 technological knowledge, could not have known of: (1) the design characteristics, if any,
2 that allegedly caused the injuries and damages complained of in the Petition; (2) the
3 alleged danger of any such design characteristics.

4 **SIXTY-SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

5 73. Plaintiffs' claims are barred, in whole or in part, to the extent Plaintiffs, or
6 any state entity acting on behalf of Plaintiffs, has released, settled, entered into an accord
7 and satisfaction or otherwise compromised Plaintiffs' claims.

8 **SIXTY-SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

9 74. Defendant is entitled to set-off, should any damages be awarded against it, in
10 the amount of damages or settlement amounts recovered by Plaintiffs, or any state entity
11 acting on behalf of Plaintiffs, with respect to the same alleged injuries. Defendant is also
12 entitled to have any damages that may be awarded to Plaintiffs reduced by the value of
13 any benefit or payment to Plaintiffs, or any state entity acting on behalf of Plaintiffs, from
14 any collateral source.

15 **SIXTY-EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

16 75. Defendant asserts that it has complied with all applicable state and federal
17 laws relating to the distribution and/or sale of pharmaceuticals.

18 **SIXTY-NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

19 76. To the extent Plaintiffs assert claims based upon an alleged failure by
20 Defendant to warn Plaintiffs directly of alleged dangers associated with the use of
21 VIOXX®/CELEBREX/BEXTRA, such claims are barred under the learned intermediary
22 doctrine.

23 **SEVENTIETH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

24 77. Defendant reserves the right to rely upon other affirmative defenses as they
25 become reasonably available and apparent during the discovery proceedings in this case.
26 Defendant reserves the right to amend this Answer to assert any such defenses.

27 ///

28 ///

WHEREFORE, MCKESSON prays for relief as follows:

1. That Plaintiffs take nothing by this action;
2. That judgment be entered in favor of MCKESSON and against Plaintiffs;
3. That MCKESSON be awarded costs of suit herein; and
4. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: December 14, 2006

Respectfully Submitted,

MORRIS POLICH & PURDY LLP

By: /s/ Kanika D. Corley, Esq.
Anthony G. Brazil
Kanika D. Corley
Attorneys for Defendant
MCKESSON CORPORATION

TUCKER ELLIS & WEST LLP

By: /s/ Peter E. Schnaitman, Esq.
Michael C. Zellers (State Bar No. 146904)
Peter E. Schnaitman (State Bar No. 218982)
Tae-Yoon Kim (State Bar No. 209934)
Tucker Ellis & West LLP
1000 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1800
Los Angeles, CA 90017-2475
Telephone: (213) 430-3400
Facsimile: (213) 430-3409
E-mail : michael.zellers@tuckerellis.com
E-mail: peter.schnaitman@tuckerellis.com
E-mail: tae.kim@tuckerellis.com

Attorneys for Defendant
MCKESSON CORPORATION

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Defendants hereby demand trial by jury in this matter.

Dated: December 14, 2006

Respectfully Submitted,

MORRIS POLICH & PURDY LLP

By: /s/ Kanika D. Corley

Anthony G. Brazil

Kanika D. Corley

Attorneys for Defendant

MCKESSON CORPORATION

TUCKER ELLIS & WEST LLP

By: /s/ Peter E. Schnaitman, Esq.

Michael C. Zellers (State Bar No. 146904)

Peter E. Schnaitman (State Bar No. 218982)

Tae-Yoon Kim (State Bar No. 209934)

Tucker Ellis & West LLP

1000 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1800

Los Angeles, CA 90017-2475

Telephone: (213) 430-3400

Facsimile: (213) 430-3409

E-mail : michael.zellers@tuckerellis.com

E-mail: peter.schnaitman@tuckerellis.com

E-mail: tae.kim@tuckerellis.com

Attorneys for Defendant

MCKESSON CORPORATION

ELECTRONIC PROOF OF SERVICE

I am employed in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age of eighteen (18) years and am not a party to the within action.

On December 14, 2006, pursuant to the Court's Electronic Filing System, I

☒ submitted an electronic version of the following document via file transfer protocol to ECF (Electronic Case Filing)

☐ submitted a hard copy of the following document to ECF (Electronic Case Filing) by

☐ facsimile

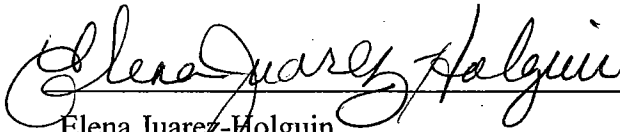
☐ overnight delivery

"ANSWER AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES OF DEFENDANT MCKESSON CORPORATION TO PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT; DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL"

☐ **STATE** I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of California, that the above is true and correct.

☒ **FEDERAL** I declare that I am employed in the office of a member of the bar of this court at whose direction the service was made

Executed on December 14, 2006, at Los Angeles, California.


Elena Juarez-Holguin